

The COOS GUARDIAN

Vox Populi, Vox Dei.

VOL. I No. 11

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1934

PRICE THREE CENTS

City Council Confirms Appointments

Mayor Daniel Feindel, at the regular meeting of the City Council, Tuesday, April 10, appointed M. J. Ryan, City Solicitor, J. H. Montminy, Overseer of the Poor, and Hiram Haskell of Manchester, as City Auditor. City Clerk Henry Moffett was appointed Supervisor of the YMCA field; the City Clerk will have to keep an active check on the conditions at the local ball-ground as to any work that might be needed to maintain the field in good condition.

An appropriation out of the City Advertising fund to receive Commander James Van Zandt, of the V. F. W., who will visit Berlin, April 26, and will be accompanied by former Brigadier-General Smedley Butler, was referred to the finance committee with power to act.

Bills payable to the amount of \$7,700 were ordered paid.

There was slight dissension on the City Solicitor appointment, with the Labor men overruled on the one ballot cast. The appointment of J. H. Montminy was approved by Labor as that of a man already put up for Tax Collector, but being made head of another department.

City of Berlin Sued for \$64,900

Hugh K., Jr.

A communication from the City Solicitor informed the "town-fathers" that Berlin is the defendant in a suit brought by the Groveton Paper Co. Said company demanding \$64,900 in cash as compensation for alleged damages suffered owing to the establishment of a dam across the Ammonoosuc.

It seems that when Berlin entered the water business for better rain and profits they had a dam built on the Ammonoosuc River and the construction created a diversion of water in the Upper End of the river causing losses to the Groveton Paper Co. of "power" and "process power." As a result the Northern Town concern wants \$64,900 which would be just about enough to build a new City Hall.

The case will be tried at the present session of the Superior Court.

Lincoln Organizes Labor Club

Lincoln, N. H., April 8.—In response to an invitation from the employees of the Parker-Young Company of Lincoln, N. H., a delegation from Coos County Workers Club attended two public meetings held Sunday afternoon and evening, when 165 out of 300 employed in the Parker-Young Mill formed the Lincoln Workers Club.

Rumors had circulated beforehand that company officials and a company lawyer would attend and demand to be heard. These rumors failed to materialize although Rev. Hammond, local minister, requested to be heard and specified that he be permitted to speak last.

President Legassie was the first to address the gathering and was followed by Attorney Bergeron. Both stressed the need of organization among the workers, the benefits of organization, and government protection under the N. R. A. of labor unions and labor organ-

izers. Local conditions in Lincoln were pointed out as favorable. The local organizers probably have no experience in this field; they were warned of the impending opposition from all sources, and the pressure which will most likely be brought on the leaders. Fear of losing a job because of labor activity was explained as a thing of the past as provided by the N. R. A., and most of the jobs are not worth holding anyway as they are slightly better than outright relief. The men responded with enthusiasm.

Ira Cole outlined the growth and development of the Club in Berlin and gave the men there an idea of what to expect in the way of opposition and from which quarters it could be expected.

The Reverend Hammond, local minister of the united Protestant churches, took the stand and gave a brief talk. He advised the men

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Shoe Factory Committee Named

At the regular meeting of the City Council, Mayor Daniel Feindel appointed a committee of Berlin business men and taxpayers to investigate the Burtman-Rondeau Shoe proposition. Messrs. Van Arsdel, W. F. Hodgdon, S. S. Lockyer, D. Walsh, M. J. Morrison, J. Barnes, A. Sullivan, and the Mayor are to serve on the committee.

At the first meeting of this committee ways and means of renting

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Along the Main Stem

With Dr. B. U. L. Connor

There can be nothing wrong with this younger generation when our lads and gals get hitched for life despite depression and some other troubles. The latest to come to our knowledge was Mr. Lucian Lamontagne to Miss Gladys Sullivan.

"Malou" (Thousand and One Melodies) Lavoie is hunting for a man these days. What sort of a savage that gentleman may be he doesn't know but it seems one fellow took the lad's "iron hat" (during the excitement of that Echo Club shindig) and the famous derby has not been seen since. Consequently all he gets out of his trumpet these days are blue notes which add much to the discord of the Thousand other Melodies.

The Police Reporter is being kept (Continued on Page 3)

700 MEN TO GO ON DRIVE

The local re-employment office is putting the men through a thorough physical examination pending their employment on the drive. The examination is for the protection of both employers and the men to be employed.

The wages to be paid could not be ascertained but it is the general feeling that the men employed will receive from \$1.50 to \$2.00, clear of board, a day.

The drive will be started some time next week, weather permitting.

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The COOS GUARDIAN

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"Entered as second class matter March 6, 1934, at the Post Office at Berlin, N. H., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

LINCOLN, N. H.

It would pay any high school student studying the McKinley era of American history to make a trip to Lincoln, N. H. It is equivalent to setting the calendar back some thirty years and the student would find the history of those days actually repeated in that town.

The town is blessed with one industry owned by one company except for another small enterprise. One can hardly distinguish the town government from the company management. It is strictly a "company" town.

The local judge, moderator, the dominating selectman, etc., are all company employees and consequently subject to that influence.

The company store dominates the retail trade and it sets prices above what they are in surrounding communities; the company owns the boarding house and hotel; the company controls the N. R. A. board; and one might truthfully add a company minister.

The only improvement over the good old company days is that the men are not paid in script or store orders and the trading at the company store is not therefore compulsory. There is, however, no other store offering the company any competition. A list of Saturday specials at the company store was compared with prices in Berlin and Manchester and found to be higher.

The company dominates the town in all respects. It is not surprising at all that they are not living up to the paper code especially in the matter of wages. We understand that the minimum wage is thirty-six cents and that, for example, the digester cooks work for fifty cents an hour.

Such companies make it difficult for those manufacturers who are living up to the code or doing better. They can naturally undersell complying competitors and in time force them to take economy measures such as wage cuts. We trust the labor club in that town will do much to remedy the situation, though it will operate against great odds as the opposition will present a united front.

BEER CONSUMPTION

Considerable surprise was expressed when the consumption of beer in this city was made public in figures in the last issue of the Reporter. We suppose the same surprise would result if the city's consumption of potatoes or matches were made known in the same manner. When the consuming capacity of a city of twenty thousand is analyzed and summed up it seems high.

However, we should expect that the consumption of beer is higher than in pre-prohibition days for two reasons and they apply equally to cigarettes.

The amount of idleness due to the depression is conducive to beer drinking among those who can produce some small change. It is true that many have not the money with which to buy beer, but those who have are tempted to drink it. Men talk along on the street and it is only natural that they eventually invite each other to have a glass of beer and stroll into a restaurant to have it. The regularly employed men contribute probably more than those fully unemployed to the amount of beer consumed when they are unemployed. The men now work forty hours a week and have two days to "kill." These fellows have some pocket change and in the idleness of their two days off most likely indulge in some beer.

It is our opinion that the ladies are also a factor in this beer consumption, and to a much higher degree than in pre-prohibition days in this city. We observe that the ladies are now calling for their beer on equal terms with the men. In the old days ladies were never seen in saloons, but today beer is served in practically all restaurants and it is consequently made available to them. Beer is also for that reason more accessible than under the old regime. People drink more with their meals in restaurants, where formerly there was not any consumed.

We are not preaching intemperance; nor do we feel that there is cause for alarm if the city is consuming beer at the rate of \$1200 worth a day, retail price. A reason for this in addition to the quantity consumed is the tax on this same beer. If the beer sold for a nickel a glass as it should, the handsome figure would be substantially cut.

Close-ups of The News

By BIJOIE

"STEEL RAISE"

A small steel concern in Cleveland raised wages 10%. Steel company after steel company followed suit until the great United States Steel fell in line. The raise will increase the cost of production of steel \$1.30 a ton.

As Time magazine expresses it this raise made front page news, but the same steelmasters also raised the price of steel not \$1.30 per ton but between \$3.00 and \$4.00 per ton for the second quarter. The price raise was kept off the front page. Why should there be such a raise in the cost of steel without any other explanation than the wage increase?

"KANSAS CITY"

Kansas City saw its bloodiest election this year. The Democratic machine in that city succeeded in remaining in office by hook and by crook. Lead and blackjacks were used freely and several people killed.

The machine there as everywhere else was faced with its downfall. The opposition was a fusion ticket led by young leaders about thirty years old determined on "cleaning"

(Continued on Page 3)

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LEGAL NOTICES

GUARDIANSHIP

The undersigned hereby gives notice that has been appointed by the Judge of Probate for the County of Coos, Guardian of Leon C. Davis of Errol in said County, who is an insane person.

Dated at Lancaster this 20th day of March, 1934.

MARY E. DAVIS, Guardian.
By FRANK P. BLAIS, Atty.

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10 issues of the Coos Guardian
may be obtained at this office at
35 cents.**LINCOLN ORGANIZES
LABOR CLUB**

(Continued from Page 1)

to do their own thinking and consider the matter before taking any action. He brought out that Parker-Young are in receivership and that that should be considered. He professed to be neutral, asserting that he was neither for labor nor for capital, but that he represented the people.

The afternoon meeting was adjourned till seven o'clock the same night when a closed meeting was held in the town hall for the purpose of organizing and electing officers. Over half of the employees of the Parker-Young Company joined at the first call. The Company employs about three hundred men and 165 joined.

President Legassie was chosen ex-officio President of the Lincoln Labor Club for the time being. The other officers were chosen then and there but for no definite term of office. In this way it will be possible to study the present officers, their qualifications and interest in the movement; to replace them at any time the need may arise.

The following men were selected to act as officers until the local Club is fully organized: Vice-President, Kenneth Towle, School St., Lincoln, machine tender on No. 2 machine, Parker-Young Co.; second vice-president, Eugene Lessard, Maple St., Lincoln, electrician for Parker-Young Co.; secretary-treasurer, Clarence Labrecque, Main St., Lincoln, shipping clerk, Parker-Young Co.; recording secretary, William J. Boyle, Coolidge St., Lincoln, machinist for Parker-Young Co.

All stated that they would give their best to the cause and would abide by and execute the policies that the members might elect to follow.

The Lincoln Club is now established and it is entirely up to the members to make something out of their organization. Conditions are bad enough in that town that they can readily find something to do. It is not up to outsiders to dictate their course of action or their policies. They know the local situation and understand it best. With the proper leadership they can make a new town of Lincoln. Their choice of officers appears good. They are all young, married, and have all been living in Lincoln for the past ten years at least. The Guardian wishes them luck.

CLOSE UPS

(Continued from Page 2)

up the city administration. That election shows to what extremes they will go to maintain themselves in power in certain instances. After such an election it cannot win next year.

"11 MILLION"

The conservative American Federation of Labor in reporting the industrial gains under the N. R. A. on April 9th last asserted that eleven million men were still unemployed in the United States.

The problem of unemployment is still there and has not been fundamentally affected as yet. Such a number of unemployed is sufficient to undermine wages and cripple purchasing power and hold the country down.

MAIN STEM

(Continued from Page 1)

plenty busy these days, and so is Assistant Justice Matt Ryan. Larceny, drunken driving, lascivious behavior, etc., honest some morns you'd think Berlin is a regular Gomorrah.

Add the prize hard luck story of the month. A lady of our acquaintance after having been on relief all winter received a check for \$400. (yes, it was a good check) which represented a sum of money invested in Canada somewhere back in the good old days. "Well, well," said hubby, "guess I'll get that new suit now." So he did some Easter shopping depositing \$10. on the

object of his dreams; the lady proceeded to pay a few back bills, and arranged a little "snack" for Easter Day. All of which was swell, and things looked pretty rosy.

One night the Mrs. had occasion to go to the toilet. She kept her treasure tied to her waist in a pocketbook which dropped in the closet without her being aware of the loss, which she did not discover until it was irremediably lost.

And now Hubby cannot get his new suit, Baby her new shoes, Mama her spring outfit, and the happy family are again plunged into the abject misery of having tasted good fortune only to see it lost through an unavoidable accident.

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Workers Club Meeting

Attorney Bergeron, attorney for the Club, was delegated to draft a resolution to our Congressmen instructing them to support the Wagner-Lewis Labor Unemployment Insurance Bill.

The Wagner-Lewis bill calls for a layout of a certain percentage of company money computed on the total weekly payroll to take care of its men who become unemployed.

A report of the Young's laundry situation was made at this time. The wages of the local laundry employees had been cut 2½ cents an hour thereby causing salaries under code provision. President Legassie conferred with Mr. Gilman, owner of the concern, and a settlement was reached whereby the concern agreed to restore the cut.

There were also reports from grievance committee from the Ice Plant, Leather Plant, and the Chemical Mill. The matters were taken under consideration and will be investigated this week.

A telegram from Mr. Richberg, National Compliance Board, was reported received. The telegram did not answer the specific questions asked by the Club and another telegram was immediately dispatched to the National Compliance Board, demanding specific answers to the "emergency time" questions.

A committee was appointed for each ward to investigate the barbers' standing with the Club.

A communication of the N. R. A. (National Board) was received to the effect that the "string" mill is not covered by the Pulp and Paper Code, and asking information to apply on possible codification of the industry.

The Club at this time announced that a Birthday Ball to occur May 10 will be promoted by the entertainment committee. The Club elections will take place April 24 with the installation of officers scheduled for the first Tuesday in May.

SHOE FACTORY COMMITTEE NAMED

(Continued from Page 1)

the old I. P. storehouse, on Glen Avenue, as a possible site for the shoe shop, were discussed. The Mayor was appointed by this committee to negotiate with the I. P. Co. for the rental of the storehouse. Wilfred Hodgdon was delegated to ascertain the company's financial standing from Dunn and Bradstreet. Reports of the Burtman-Rondeau concern's assets from the Boston National Shawmut Bank were very favorable. Yet the investment as required from the city cannot be granted without a thorough investigation as to the financial standing of the company.

THANKS—WELCOME

I wish to thank everyone for their kind patronage while at the First National Stores at 777 Main Street, and do extend a welcome to all at my new First National Stores, 195 East Mason Street.

OSCAR H. RIVARD.
Advt.

It is with great pleasure that Dr. Connor greets the Lincoln boys into the fold of organized labor. If our memory serves us right the Franconia town is one "sweetheart" of a place!

Last Drop



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(contents)

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